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BACKFIRE B RADAR/ELECTRONICS MAINTENANCE/CHECKOUT AT AKHTUBINSK FLIGHT TEST CENTER, USSR (S) (S/WNINTEL) A BACKFIRE B aircraft undergoing radar/electronics maintenance/checkout was observed at Akhtubinsk Flight Test Center, USSR, The aircraft was on the large parking apron This airfield This airfield This airfield This airfield This airfield This airfield Exhtubinsk Flight Test Center. (TSR) The lower portion of the nose radome had been removed and was observed on the apron near the port wing of the BACKFIRE B. This ovate, apering radome section has an overall length The tapering, bow-shaped cavity of the radome section as an overall length The tapering, bow-shaped cavity of the radome section that time, the forward projection of the nose position that time, the forward projection of the refueling probe beyond the ircraft nose (TSR) Another BACKFIRE B was parked on the starboard side of the ACKFIRE B undergoing radar/electronics maintenance/checkout. The nose adome on this second BACKFIRE B was intact. A definite chine-like effect, observed around the nose radome, results from the fact that the lower price of the radome is slightly wider than the upper portion. The effueling probe on the second BACKFIRE B projects forward of the observed around the nose radome, results from the fact that the lower price of the radome. (S/WNINTEL) A third BACKFIRE B, observed at the airfield also exhibited the chine-like effect aroung the also exhibited the chine-like effect aroung the also exhibited the chine-like effect.	•	IMAGERY INFORMATION REPORT
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(S/WNINTEL) BACKFIRE B and BACKFIRE A exhibiting a chine-like effect around the nose radome were also observed at Ryazan/Dyagilevo Airfield	25X1
This airfield is the Soviet	25 X 1
Long Range Aviation (LRA) training base.	
(S/WNINTEL) A BLINDER B aircraft, a launch platform for the AS-4 (KITCHEN) missile, was parked adjacent to the two BACKFIRE B The nose radome on the BLINDER B was the standard nose radome and exhibited the same chine-like effect observed on the BACKFIRE B nose radome.	25X1 25X1
(S/WNINTEL) Since BACKFIRE B and BLINDER B are used as KITCHEN launch platforms and both carry the DOWNBEAT radar system, the nose radomes on both aircraft should be similar in configuration. The appearance of a similar radome on BACKFIRE A would indicate that this aircraft may also be intended as a launch platform for KITCHEN. BACKFIRE may have been equipped with this nose radome in the past, but it has not been readily observed on prior imagery.	
	25 X 1

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